

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:PWKRIEBEL:DPW

APPROVED BY EA - MR. INGERSOLL

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, KS

SUBJ: ROK FOREIGN MINISTER'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY

INGERSOLL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM ACCOMPANIED BY NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR LEE SANG OCK CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL AT 10:00 AM MARCH 21. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SNEIDER AND KOREA OFFICE DIRECTOR RANARD WERE PRESENT. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION INCLUDED LATIN AMERICAN VIEWS TOWARD NORTH KOREA AND ATTITUDES OF US GROUPS TOWARD RECENT EVENTS IN ROK. KIM WAS IN WASHINGTON ON HIS WAY HOME FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA.

2. LATIN AMERICA . KIM BELIEVED THAT COSTA RICA'S RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WAS DUE IN PART TO THE FAILURE OF THE ROK AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO (ACCREDITED TO COSTA RICE) TO BE SUFFICIENTLY ACTIVE. HE SAID THE COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT SEOUL AFTER HIS VISIT TO TAIPEI. KIM REMARKED ON THE NEED TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS IN OBTAINING RECOGNITION OF THE ROK IN THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

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3. SNEIDER SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE ROK TO

SEEK SUCH RECOGNITION EVEN IF IT MEANT ACCEPTING A POSITION LESS THAN THAT OF NORTH KOREA. HE ALSO SUGGESTED ROK CONSIDERATION OF AN EXPANDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

IN AFRICA.

4. DOMESTIC SITUATION. INGERSOLL ASKED ABOUT THE ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION. IN RESPONSE KIM SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXPECT SERIOUS TROUBLE. INGERSOLL NOTED WE HAVE HAD INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN KOREA. IN THIS CONNECTION RANARD POINTED TO LETTERS BEING RECEIVED FROM HILL, MOTIVATED BY LOCAL CHURCH INTEREST. HE SAW POSSIBILITY THIS REPRESENTS A TREND WHICH ROKG WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER. KIM IMPLIED THAT ROKG WAS HAVING A HARDER TIME WITH "PROTESTANTARIAN" GROUPS THAN CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES. PAPAL NUNCIO HAD LATTER IN HAND. IN A RELATED COMMENT KIM SAID THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWING KRISHER'S VISA WAS NO LONGER AN ISSUE.

5. MR. INGERSOLL ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO KIM TAE CHUNG. KIM REPLIED THAT AS LONG AS THE CASE WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION KIM WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE KOREA. HE IMPLIED FOREIGN OFFICE WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED, THAT RATHER PROBLEM WAS WITH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. MOREOVER, HE SAID INVESTIGATION COULD LAST AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS.

6. COMMENTING ON THE FORTHCOMING CONGRESSIONAL VISIT, KIM SAID IT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CONGRESSMEN TO SEE EVENTS IN KOREA AT FIRST HAND. THEY COULD TALK TO CHRISTIAN LEADERS, TO KIM TAE CHUNG AND TO ANYONE ELSE THEY WANTED. KISSINGER

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